



Introduced Version

**HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION honoring the Virginia B. Ball
Center for Creative Inquiry, a division of Ball State University.

**Adams T, Brown C, Crawford,
Dickinson, Harris, Mays, Porter,
Smith V, Summers**

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on

20033098

2003

HC 1033/DI 84+



HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION honoring the Virginia B. Ball Center for Creative Inquiry, a division of Ball State University.

Whereas, The Virginia B. Ball Center for Creative Inquiry is the host of a unique project entitled "The Other Side of Middletown" created to study Muncie's African American community, which was deliberately omitted from the widely cited "Middletown: A Study in Modern American Culture" by Robert S. and Helen Merrell Lynd first published in 1929;

Whereas, The Virginia B. Ball Center for Creative Inquiry, a division of Ball State University, has commissioned a unique project that will bring the best and brightest students at the University into the homes, churches, and businesses of the African American community to listen, observe, talk, study, and publish a book on the African American experiences in Middletown (Muncie, Indiana);

Whereas, The findings of this project will then be compared to the findings of the original Lynd study;

Whereas, "The Other Side of Middletown" will be under the supervision of Dr. Luke Eric Lassiter of the Ball State University Department of Anthropology;

Whereas, After careful screening of possible participants, students Michelle Anderson, Jessica Booth, Brandy Bounds, Sarah Bricker, Carla Burk, Abigail (Abby) Delpha, Jarrod Dortch, Eric Efaw, Mia Fields, Daniel Gawlowski, Carrie Kissel, Ann Kramer, Ashley Moore, and Cari Peterson were



selected to participate in the new study;

Whereas, Leadership for the project will be provided by Dr. Eric Lassiter, project director, Elizabeth (Beth) Cambell, assistant project director, Michelle Johnson, graduate assistant, and Hurley C. Goodall, community advisor and former state representative;

Whereas, Team advisors are community advisors Julius Anderson, Reverend Renzie Abram, Phyllis Bartleson, Geraldine Burns, Edgar Faulkner, Jr., Eric Johnson, Ed McNeary, Carl Rhinehart, Delores Rhinehart, and John Young El who will provide community input and guidance, helping to open Middletown homes, businesses, and institutions to the students and will critique their work;

Whereas, Dr. Joseph Trimmer, director of the Virginia B. Ball Center for Creative Inquiry, John Straw, director of Ball State University Archives, Michael Doyle, assistant professor, Department of History at Ball State University, and Dr. Bruce Geelhoed, director of the Center for Middletown Studies at Ball State University, gave the project support in their respective fields of expertise;

Whereas, Community organizations such as the Muncie Commission on the Social Status of Black Males, the Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County, and the Minnetrista Cultural Center gave their resources, expertise, and support to the project;

Whereas, Shaffer Chapel African American Episcopal Church, an institution with a long involvement in the struggles of the African American community in Middletown, opened its doors and its arms to the students to help them immerse themselves in the African American community with all its contradictions and struggles;

Whereas, Many of the students involved in the project had never entered an African American home, church, or business;

Whereas, The Virginia B. Ball Center for Creative Inquiry is to be highly commended for providing such a cutting edge



educational opportunity for its students; and

Whereas, Ball State University is to be highly commended for giving its blessing to such a unique opportunity for some of its best students and for providing other institutions with a model that gives students opportunities to stretch themselves and explore new ways to interact with their environment: Therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives
of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana,
the Senate concurring:*

- 1 SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly wishes to
- 2 acknowledge its support and encouragement of such unique programs
- 3 as "The Other Side of Middletown" that bring students and the
- 4 communities in which they live during their college careers closer
- 5 together.
- 6 SECTION 2. That the Indiana General Assembly wishes to
- 7 commend Ball State University for this innovative approach to learning
- 8 and the benefits it brings to the students.
- 9 SECTION 3. That the Indiana General Assembly urges other state
- 10 universities to look at and consider similar innovative ways to give new
- 11 meaningful learning opportunities to their students.
- 12 SECTION 4. That the Principal Clerk of the House of
- 13 Representatives shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the Virginia
- 14 B. Ball Center for Creative Inquiry and Dr. Blaine A. Brownell,
- 15 President of Ball State University.

